CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 7 September 1994, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Sirous Nasseri (Islamic Republic of Iran)

GE.94-64310 (E)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 692nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I have on my list of speakers for today the representative of Mexico, in his capacity as Coordinator of the Group of 21; the representative of Canada, in his capacity as Special Coordinator on "cut-off"; the representative of the Netherlands, who will speak in his capacity as Coordinator of the Western Group on "cut-off"; the representative of Chile, who will also speak on behalf of a group of non-members; the representative of Poland, who will speak as Coordinator of the Eastern European Group; and the representative of Morocco. However, before giving the floor to those speakers, and in accordance with my announcement at the plenary meeting held yesterday, 6 September, I should like to put to the Conference for adoption the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, as contained in document CD/1273/Rev.1. May I take it that the Conference adopts this report? I see no comments.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all delegations for their cooperation and understanding, which will enable us to conclude our annual session today, as scheduled.

I should now like to turn to the draft annual report of the Conference to the United Nations General Assembly, as contained in document CD/WP.456/Rev.1. As you are aware, the only pending issue now is the inclusion of a substantive paragraph relating to the results of the consultations undertaken by the Special Coordinator on "cut-off", Ambassador Shannon of Canada. You have a text before you which has been the subject of intensive informal consultations. May I ask whether the Conference is now prepared to accept the inclusion of this text under paragraph 29 of the draft annual report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should now like to give the floor to the representative of Mexico, Ambassador Marín Bosch, who will make a statement on behalf of the Group of 21.

Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) (translated from Spanish): The Group of 21 would like to place on record the following statement. The Group is aware that the Conference on Disarmament must adapt to a changing international situation. Those changes pose new challenges and offer fresh opportunities and thus may require different approaches to certain disarmament questions. The Group of 21 is ready to explore these questions with other delegations with a view to enhancing the role of the CD.

Although much has changed over the past few years, many things remain the same. In particular the serious threat posed by the accumulation of nuclear weapons still looms large. The development of ever more sophisticated delivery systems has continued. These questions raise some issues which should be addressed in the CD in order to identify specific measures that could be the object of negotiations in this international forum.

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

In performing its task as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body, the CD should bear in mind the purposes for which it was established. These are set out in the Final Document of the United Nations General Assembly's 1978 special session on disarmament and later in the CD's own agenda (CD/12 of 12 April 1979). All CD members have agreed to the priorities contained therein and any changes to them will require similar agreements. It is against that background that the so-called "annual agenda" or work programme should be considered at the beginning of each yearly session.

In 1994 the Conference on Disarmament did not make adequate use of the time at its disposal. In January it established four ad hoc committees, but only one of them registered significant progress. In the other three committees there was little if any advance beyond the reiteration of known positions. When it came to the writing of the respective reports, however, there were attempts to depart from established practices and agreed ground rules that have served the CD well in the past. Report drafting should be a factual and straightforward exercise; it was never meant to supply a last-minute opportunity to disguise differences or the lack of substantive progress on a given item.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Marín Bosch, the representative of Mexico, for his statement, and now give the floor to the representative of Canada, Ambassador Shannon, who will speak in his capacity as Special Coordinator on the issue of "cut-off".

Mr. SHANNON (Canada): Today marks the final day of the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament. The session has been remarkable for the speed and vigour with which it has undertaken a negotiation new to it, on the comprehensive test-ban treaty. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban will provide us with a comprehensive rolling text, and the interval to the inter-sessional period in November will provide delegations and capitals time for careful study, analysis and reflection. We should be well advanced by the beginning of the 1995 session.

The focus of my remarks today, however, will be on the progress we have achieved in consultations on the arrangement for the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of certain fissile material. While I regret that I cannot report that consensus has been achieved on a negotiating mandate, I am pleased that yesterday and today we were able to agree in principle that an ad hoc committee should be established as soon as a negotiating mandate is achieved. I want to express my appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your personal intervention, which helped us reach this accommodation, and to thank as well those delegations from all groups who were prepared to bend enough to enable us to get this far on what has proved to be a very difficult proposition.

To recapitulate the process we have been through, it will be recalled that United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/75 L of 16 December 1993 laid the groundwork, calling for the negotiation of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and their nuclear explosive

(Mr. Shannon, Canada)

devices, in the most appropriate forum. The Conference responded to the call on the opening day of the current session on 25 January by reaching the decision, in the framework of agenda item 2, entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", to appoint, "as a first step, a Special Coordinator to seek the views of its members on the most appropriate arrangement to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices." Following my appointment as that Special Coordinator, I held numerous consultations throughout the session both bilaterally, with groups, and from time to time with item and monthly coordinators, and reported regularly on the progress of those consultations.

My first report to you in February laid the groundwork for the questions I proposed to ask delegations as I sought to determine the views of members on the most appropriate arrangement for the negotiation of such a treaty. When I next spoke to you, in March, I was able to report the emergence of a preponderant majority view among members that the Conference on Disarmament was the most appropriate international forum to negotiate such a treaty.

The next important step occurred when I was able to report at the end of June that the majority view that the Conference on Disarmament should be the venue for such a negotiation had become a consensus view. This represented a significant step forward from the United Nations General Assembly 48 resolution.

Since that time, I have held numerous consultations in an effort to obtain agreement on an appropriate negotiating mandate for the necessary committee. As delegations will recall, I referred to a formulation of a mandate in my statement to the plenary on 30 June. Under this formulation, based closely on the consensus language of United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/75 L of 16 December 1993, the Conference would have directed the establishment of an ad hoc committee with a mandate to negotiate a treaty on a ban on production of certain fissile material. Unfortunately, one group was unable to reach consensus among its members to support this formulation. My understanding is that one of the reasons, if not the principal reason, for the inability of the group to reach consensus was the absence of an express reference to stockpiles.

Based on my consultations with all groups, I concluded that an explicit reference in the mandate to existing stockpiles would not be acceptable to other groups. However, I have also stated my view that the absence of such a reference to stockpiles does not mean that stocks cannot be addressed once an ad hoc negotiating committee has been mandated and established. I made the point that in the discussions we would need to have early on in the ad hoc committee concerning, inter alia, the scope and verification dimension of a cut-off convention, a number of countries would want to set out their views on both scope and verification as well as on related issues such as transparency. No one took issue with this statement.

(Mr. Shannon, Canada)

It is widely recognized that a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices is only one aspect of larger and even more complex issues relating to such material. The Start I and Start II treaties, under which large-scale dismantling of nuclear weapons in the United States of America and Russia is taking place, have focused attention on the question of fissile material removed from such weapons.

In an effort to draw together the many strands of this complex issue and to put the proposed work of the Conference on Disarmament in this area in this wider context, I proposed to groups for their consideration the establishment of an ad hoc committee with a mandate which recognizes the need for the international community to deal with issues relevant to the production, accumulation and disposition of fissile material and at the same time, as a first step in dealing with these matters, I proposed that the Conference direct the committee to negotiate a treaty on production. The formulation I proposed was as follows:

> "The Conference on Disarmament recognises the need for the international community to deal urgently and effectively with the growing dangers posed by the production, accumulation and disposition of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Accordingly,
>
> "1. The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish an ad hoc committee to deal with relevant fissile material questions.
>
> "2. As a first step, the Conference directs the Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
>
> "3. The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1994 session."

Unfortunately, that formulation also did not command consensus from the Conference. However, both proposed mandates are still on the table. Those groups or delegations which wish to do so are invited to comment on either or both draft mandates or to bring forward their own proposals.

To summarize, consensus has been reached among members that the Conference on Disarmament is the appropriate forum to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. In my view, the Conference on Disarmament thus has recognized and acknowledged its special responsibility to the world community to undertake a negotiation on this urgent issue. Agreement in principle has been reached for the establishment of an ad hoc committee on this issue subject to reaching agreement on a mandate. It now remains for the members of the Conference to agree on a negotiating mandate

(Mr. Shannon, Canada)

document. With the support of the Conference, I intend to continue my efforts during the inter-sessional period to secure a negotiating mandate which will be acceptable to all members.

In dealing with the problem of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes, I am persuaded of the need to accommodate in some form the views of those delegations, on the one hand, who see the problem of the production of fissile material in the larger context with its accumulation and disposition dimensions, and those, on the other hand, who see the larger context of the problem as well, but who want as a first step to see an immediate start to the negotiation of a production ban.

We should all recognize that there are differing views in the area and that the proper place for the balancing of these views is in the course of a negotiation once the committee is established, and not before. As I suggested in the plenary on 1 September, an attempt to precisely define the scope of the negotiation through the mandate of the committee, when there are known and deeply felt differences, may well lead to a rejection of the negotiation. I hope that all delegations will bear this in mind as the process of consultation continues.

In conclusion, I look forward to continuing to work with all delegations. It is my hope to reach an agreement on a negotiating mandate as soon as possible in the inter-sessional period to present to the Conference at the commencement of its session in 1995.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Canada for his statement and I, for my part, express my deepest appreciation for the relentless efforts he has exerted in pursuance of this issue and I wish him success in the continuation of his work. I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands, Ambassador Ramaker, who will speak in his capacity as Coordinator of the Western Group on "cut-off".

Mr. RAMAKER (Netherlands): Mr. President, today I take the floor, as you said, to deliver a statement on behalf of the Western Group on the issue of negotiations on a ban of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, or "cut-off".

The Western Group has listened with great interest to the progress report just presented by the CD's Special Coordinator on cut-off, Ambassador Shannon. The Western Group would like to commend the Special Coordinator for the way he has discharged himself of the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Presidential statement of 25 January last. The Western Group is encouraged by the consensus among members that the Conference is the appropriate forum to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and by the agreement, in principle, for the establishment of an ad hoc committee on this item.

The Western Group had expected that, on the basis of the consensus on the CD as the appropriate forum, the Conference would be able to agree on a negotiating mandate and to establish an ad hoc committee during its

(Mr. Ramaker, Netherlands)

1994 session. Most regrettably, that expectation has not been met. None the less, the Western Group continues to look forward to an early negotiation in the CD, and to that end supports the request that the Special Coordinator continue his consultations.

The Western Group would like to reiterate that it fully supports the original draft mandate, which is based on the wording of the United Nations General Assembly's consensus resolution 48/75 L. The Western Group further notes that this simple mandate enjoys the support of the preponderance of the members of the CD, and that only a handful of delegations has been unwilling to uphold the commitment embodied in the 1993 cut-off resolution. The simple draft mandate reads as follows:

> "1. The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish an ad hoc committee on a 'ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices'.
>
> "2. The Conference directs the Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
>
> "3. The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1994 session."

In the view of the Western Group, CD members should seize the unique opportunity of the consensus reached in the United Nations General Assembly to begin, as soon as possible, the negotiation of a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The Western Group expresses the hope that the Special Coordinator can successfully conclude his consultations and declares its readiness to render him every support in doing so.

Finally, I would request you, Mr. President, to have this statement circulated as an official CD document.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his statement and I now give the floor to the representative of Chile, who, I understand, will first speak in his national capacity and then make a statement on behalf of a group of non-members.

Mr. BERGUÑO (Chile) (translated from Spanish): Mr. President, allow me to express my appreciation of the way in which you have conducted our debates as the 1994 session of the Conference on Disarmament draws to a close. With your permission, I shall now make a statement on behalf of my Government, in Spanish, after which I will read out, in English, a joint statement by a group of 23 countries.

After introducing the report of the Committee on disarmament in outer space, the distinguished representative of Cuba announced her country's decision to accede to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and the

(Mr. Ramaker, Netherlands)

representatives of Brazil and Mexico, the latter being the depositary State for the agreement, took note of this important announcement.

I should just like, for the benefit of the States members and observers in the Conference on Disarmament, to draw attention to my country's interest in the rapid materialization of Cuba's membership of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. When this comes about, the provision in article 28, paragraph 1.(a), of the Treaty will have been met and the Treaty will come into force throughout its zone of application, a zone contiguous with those of the Antarctic Treaty to the south, the Treaty of Rarotonga to the west and the future denuclearized zone of Africa to the east. When the process of ratifying the amendments approved by the Tlatelolco General Conference is completed, there will be conferred upon the International Atomic Energy Agency, in addition to the monitoring obligations it already has with respect to safeguards, extensive powers to carry out the special inspections provided for in article 16, thus making a substantive contribution to the international non-proliferation regime. There is no need to recall here that the negative assurances which are currently under study in the committee of this Conference ably chaired by Ambassador Guillaume are already in effect for the member States of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, since all the nuclear States have for that purpose already signed Protocol II of the Treaty.

With this brief description of the significance of the imminent entry into force of the Treaty of Tlatelolco I will close my statement and turn to the reading of a text agreed to by the 23 countries.

(continued in English)

I would like to make the following statement on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

Members of the Conference will recall that on 25 January 1994 we urged the Conference on Disarmament to reach a consensus resulting in expansion of its membership and that on 30 June 1994 we reiterated the need for a solution to this question before the end of the 1994 session and before consideration of the matter at the forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We greatly regret that, in spite of our common endeavour, relevant initiatives endorsed by the Conference on Disarmament and by resolution 48/77B of the United Nations General Assembly have not materialized the consensus which would satisfy the common aspirations of the 23 nations to contribute, on an equal footing, to advance the process of the multilateral disarmament.

The Conference is once again in the situation of having to report to the General Assembly that it has made no progress on this question.

We shall continue to urge all the member States of the Conference here, and in New York, to arrive at an agreement on the pressing issue of enlargement of the Conference's composition before its 1995 session.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Chile for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair.

I now give the floor to the representative of Poland, Mr. Pac, who will speak on behalf of the Eastern European Group.

Mr. PAC (Poland): On behalf of the Eastern European Group I should like to make the following statement concerning the question of negotiations on a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Eastern European Group wishes to express to the Special Coordinator its appreciation of the dedication and perseverance with which Ambassador Shannon has been seeking to discharge the responsibilities that were entrusted to him in the Presidential statement at the outset of the current session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Eastern European Group is grateful to Ambassador Shannon in particular for his efforts which have resulted in two important findings: first - that there is consensus among CD members that this body is the appropriate forum to negotiate a non-discriminatory multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and second - that there is agreement, in principle, on the establishment of an appropriate ad hoc committee.

The Eastern European Group is disappointed and concerned that despite the remarkable meeting of minds in the Conference on Disarmament, an agreement on a negotiating mandate and on the actual establishment of an ad hoc committee has proved elusive.

Bearing in mind that consensus General Assembly resolution 48/75 L is at the origin of the efforts to negotiate a cut-off treaty, the Eastern European Group is confident that the window of opportunity created by this resolution will not be closed. We, therefore, lend our firm support to the request that the Special Coordinator continue his consultations in the time ahead. We wish him every success in that effort and we pledge to him our full cooperation.

The members of the Eastern European Group are determined to spare no effort to see negotiations commenced as soon as possible on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Certainly no less can be expected from CD members who joined in the consensus on United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/75 L.

I should like to request, Mr. President, that this statement be circulated as an official CD document.

Mr. ZNIBER (Morocco) (translated from French): First of all, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on taking up the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and wish you every success in your office.

I have asked for the floor to make the following clarifications on behalf of my delegation. At the plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament held yesterday, Tuesday, 6 September, a statement was made on behalf of a group of countries. The purpose of that statement was to introduce a draft protocol to be added to the non-proliferation Treaty. My country's name was mentioned as among those sponsoring that draft. My delegation would like in that respect to emphasize that it has not expressed a definitive position on the subject, nor was it duly informed of the submission of the draft protocol to the Conference. Therefore my delegation reserves its future position on the subject and takes this opportunity to point out that it has always called for the implementation of security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States on the basis of a legally binding international instrument.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Morocco for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the Chair. I have a request from the representative of Egypt to take the floor. I therefore give the floor to Ambassador Zahran.

Mr. ZAHRAN (Egypt): Mr. President, as this is the first time I take the floor while you are presiding over the Conference on Disarmament, let me express to you the congratulations of my delegation for the skill and wisdom with which you have steered the work of the Conference during this last part of the session which is coming to an end today. Let me also express the satisfaction of my delegation to Ambassador Miguel Marín Bosch of Mexico for the work which has been done under his wise chairmanship in the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban in order to advance the negotiations on a draft CTBT in full cooperation with the chairmen of the two working groups, namely Ambassador Dembinski of Poland and Ambassador Hoffman of Germany. My delegation hopes that negotiations on this treaty could be concluded in the course of the inter-sessional period or during the first part of the 1995 session of the CD, an event which will have a very positive impact on the work of the 1995 review and extension conference of the NPT.

I would also like to pay tribute to the work and the tireless efforts of Ambassador Shannon of Canada for his patience and perseverance in fulfilling his mandate as Special Coordinator on the issue of cut-off. My delegation is in full agreement with the proposed paragraph 29 of the report as it has been adopted today. However, I would like to state here that when Egypt joined the consensus on General Assembly resolution 48/75 L adopted on 16 December 1993, it was a position taken on the understanding that banning the production of fissile materials encompassed both past as well as future production.

Addressing the plenary meeting of this Conference on 4 August 1994, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt made clear that Egypt fully supported the establishment of an ad hoc committee within the CD with a mandate to negotiate a treaty banning the production of weapons-usable fissile material which leads the way towards dealing appropriately with existing stockpiles of fissile materials through their progressive transfer to international control prior to rendering them unusable. I am quoting from his statement.

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

Egypt is committed to the objective of banning the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes and is of the view that any such ban must contain provisions which allow for an effective verification mechanism to be set up. Such a mechanism would require that clear information be available on existing stocks of weapons-grade materials. In the absence of an adequate system to verify and safeguard weapons-grade fissile materials, it becomes particularly relevant when we read news of such materials being leaked or smuggled for sale like any other commodities on the black market. While such transaction have been detected in some cases, one shudders at the thought of what has gone undetected.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Zahran, the representative of Egypt, for his statement and also for his kind words to the Chair.

I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan, Ambassador Kamal.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): My delegation was happy to hear the report of the Special Coordinator, Ambassador Gerald Shannon, and welcomes the agreement on the text of paragraph 29 on the subject of a future fissile materials convention which has been incorporated in the report of the Conference on Disarmament.

As we all know, the Special Coordinator's consultations have been prolonged and difficult. This was essentially because there was, and there continues to be, a wide divergence of views among the members of the Conference on Disarmament on the scope of the proposed fissile materials convention.

This disagreement emerged after it became clear to many that the word "production" used in General Assembly resolution 48/75 of 16 December 1993 was going to be restrictively interpreted to imply "future" production only, thus excluding past production and stockpiles altogether. This effort at deliberately excluding past production or stockpiles from the purview of a convention on fissile materials does not make logical sense, even less so in the light of recent incidents and developments, and is, therefore, not acceptable to many delegations. It would be a perpetuation or legitimization of the asymmetry which exists globally and regionally, and would put the whole concept of nuclear disarmament into serious doubt.

My delegation has also taken note of Ambassador Shannon's suggestion that the mandate proposed by him earlier was without prejudice to a discussion on the stockpiles issue in the ad hoc committee. If this proposal was made in all earnestness and with the approval of those who oppose discussion of the stockpiles issue, then my delegation fails to understand why an explicit reference could not be made in the mandate. We all know that it is the mandate from which the scope is derived, which in turn guides the debate in the Committee. We would not be justified in believing that without any reference to stockpiles in the mandate, the treaty will address this important issue.

The recent plutonium smuggling incidents, which may only be a precursor to what could happen, vindicate our view that the stockpiles issue needs urgent attention. It is a clear hint that the most immediate danger today comes from the existing stocks and has to be addressed urgently.

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

A fissile materials convention will have to be negotiated on the basis of a non-discriminatory approach and a comprehensive scope if it is to meet the security interests of concerned States and the aspirations of the international community. We have all agreed, in principle, that an ad hoc committee should be established as soon as a mandate is agreed. We have no doubt that the Special Coordinator will continue his efforts to propose a mandate which incorporates these unexceptionable objectives.

I would request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

Mr. HOU (China) (translated from Chinese): Mr. President, as this is my first speech at the plenary meetings under your presidency, first of all I would like to express my warm congratulations on your taking up the presidency. We are happy to see our friendly and distinguished representative of Iran taking the Chair. At the time when this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament is at its end, I wish to congratulate you for the progress achieved under your presidency. This progress has been reflected in the report of the Conference to the General Assembly. It also includes a rolling text on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. We would also like to congratulate all the delegations with respect to this and take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Petrovsky, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Bensmail, for contributions they have made.

We just heard many statements on the question of cessation of production of fissile materials for weapons, as if today were a "day for cut-off". However, we do not intend to make a substantive statement on this matter today, because at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and in the Conference on Disarmament we have had occasion to state China's principled position and views on this matter. Also under the Special Coordinator, Ambassador Shannon of Canada, the Chinese delegation has again made its own new efforts in this regard. We express the wish that he will achieve new progress in his future consultations.

Right now, I would like to talk about the question of security assurances for the non-nuclear States. At the plenary meeting yesterday, the Chinese delegation heard with interest the statement made by the representative of Iran on behalf of more than 10 countries of the Group of 21, along with the submission of a draft protocol. This is a meaningful and new development in this Conference's negotiation on this question. The Chinese delegation will seriously study this important document and continue to cooperate on this matter with these countries, the Group of 21 as a whole and the delegations of the Conference.

As is known to all, the question of "security assurances" is an important item on the Conference's agenda. We have undertaken negotiations on this question for many years. However, substantive progress has not yet been achieved. In the present new circumstances, the subject of "security assurances" has become an extremely urgent and important international matter. This should help it to be more easily resolved. We hope that next year's session of the Conference will accelerate its negotiation on this matter as a priority item.

(Mr. Hou, China)

Under the guidance of its Chairman, Ambassador Baron Guillaume of Belgium, the Ad Hoc Committee on negative security assurances has undertaken a significant amount of work and efforts, and some progress has been made. This has been reflected in our report. The Chinese delegation hopes that the Ad Hoc Committee will achieve a breakthrough, thereby making a contribution to the negotiations on a CTBT and the NPT conference.

At this juncture, I would like to reiterate China's principled position, views and suggestions on this matter. Since it came into possession of nuclear weapons in 1964, China has unilaterally undertaken not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and in any circumstances. China has also undertaken not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States or nuclear-free zones. China has on many occasions strongly urged all nuclear States to make this kind of pledge and to start negotiating on this matter as early as possible in order to conclude an international convention.

In 1993, the Chinese delegation took further new initiatives and proposed an important new initiative, calling for negotiations by the five nuclear States to conclude a treaty against the first use of nuclear weapons.

In June this year, during the negotiation of a CTBT in the Geneva Conference, China made suggestions on the draft articles concerning "security assurances for States parties".

These important initiatives that China proposed are aimed at devoting efforts to eliminating the danger of nuclear wars, preventing nuclear proliferation, effectively promoting a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and their destruction, and realizing at an early date the objective of a world without nuclear weapons. We hope in good faith that the other nuclear States will respond positively, start negotiating on this matter and conclude a corresponding international agreement, thereby making contributions to the safeguarding and enhancement of international peace and security.

The PRESIDENT: I thank Ambassador Hou, the representative of China, for his statement. Are there any further requests for the floor at this stage? I give the floor to the representative of Algeria.

Mr. MEGHLAOUI (Algeria) (translated from French): I have asked for the floor to make a brief statement on the question of fissile material produced for military purposes. The Algerian delegation listened very carefully and with great interest to the report of the Special Coordinator on this issue. It is very grateful to Ambassador Shannon for his efforts, efforts made in a spirit of transparency. The Algerian delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the following. We believe that the Conference on Disarmament is the appropriate body to negotiate a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty on fissile material produced for military purposes. We also agree on the establishment of an ad hoc committee. As regards the definition of that committee's mandate, the least that can be said for the time being is that the approaches to the content of the mandate differ. These differences in approach that concern the question of existing stockpiles are not reflected in the paragraph we have just adopted. My delegation has already had occasion to

(Mr. Meghlaoui, Algeria)

address this important subject. The elaboration of a mandate will require a true spirit of compromise on the part of all the members of the Conference on Disarmament. We would urge Ambassador Shannon to continue his efforts in the inter-sessional period in order to produce consensus, which my delegation very much hopes will emerge.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any further requests for the floor at this stage? I see none. May I say, as some representatives have requested that their statements be circulated as official documents, that their requests have been duly noted and will be acted upon.

I should now like to take up the draft annual report of the Conference to the General Assembly and formalize the agreements reached at our last two informal meetings. In accordance with past practice, I shall proceed to its adoption section by section. As I noted before, the blank spaces will be filled in by the secretariat. In addition, the reports of the ad hoc committees, as well as the paragraph just agreed upon on "cut-off" - which are integral parts of the annual report - will, of course, be incorporated by the secretariat.

We shall begin with section I - "Introduction". Any comments? No comments. It is adopted.

Section II - "Organization of the work of the Conference". Part A. In paragraph 2, the closing date of 7 September 1994 will be added. Any comments? Part B. Any comments? Part C. Any comments? Part D. Any comments? Part E. Any comments? Part F. Any comments? Part G. In connection with paragraph 18 (b), the secretariat informs me that it will soon issue revision 6 to CD/8 containing the rules of procedure of the Conference, in order to reflect the agreement reached on the amendment to rule 12. Any comments? Part H. Any comments? Any comments on section II in general? Section II is adopted.

Section III - "Substantive work of the Conference during its 1994 session". Any comments on paragraphs 21, 22, 23 and 24? No comments. Part A - "Nuclear test ban". Here, the number of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban will be changed to CD/1273/Rev.1. Any comments on this part? No comments. Part B - "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament". With regard to paragraph 29, under "Prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices", the text, as agreed earlier today, will be incorporated. Any comments on this part? No comments. Part C - "Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters". Are there any comments here? I see no comments. Part D - "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". In paragraph 32, last line, after the symbol number of the document, CD/1271, the words "as amended at the 691st plenary meeting" will be added, as agreed. Any other comments here? No comments. Part E - "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons". Here similarly, in paragraph 33, the words "as amended at the 691st plenary meeting" will be added after the symbol number of the document on the last line. Any comments? Part F - "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons".

(The President)

Any comments on this part? I recognize none. Part G - "Comprehensive programme of disarmament". Any comments? No comments. Part H - "Transparency in armaments". Here, the same formula as used in paragraphs 32 and 33 will apply in paragraph 36: after the symbol number on the last line, the words "as amended at the 691st plenary meeting" will be inserted. Any other comments? Part I - "Consideration of other areas dealing with the cessation of the arms race and disarmament and other relevant measures". Any comments here? No comments. Part J - "Consideration and adoption of the annual report of the Conference and any other report as appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations". Here, in paragraph 39, the date of 7 September 1994 will be inserted. Any other comments? No comments. Section III is adopted.

We have now concluded our consideration of the draft annual report to the United Nations General Assembly. May I take it that the report as a whole can be adopted?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Would any delegation wish to make a statement at this stage? I see no request for the floor. This concludes our work for the 1994 session. Before adjourning, however, I would like to make some concluding remarks as President of the Conference.

We have concluded a long and arduous session. Thanks to the very thorough preparations undertaken by the first President of the Conference for this session, Ambassador Gérard Errera of France, we were able to make a successful and substantive start to our work and four ad hoc committees were immediately set up to concentrate on the four priority items on our agenda, that is, on a nuclear test ban, prevention of an arms race in outer space, transparency in armaments and negative security assurances. We also appointed special coordinators to deal with the issues of the prohibition of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices as well as the review of the Conference's agenda. A Friend of the Chair was also appointed to continue consultations on the expansion of the membership of the Conference. We also pursued our efforts aimed at the improved and effective functioning of the Conference. My duties have been made less onerous thanks to the untiring efforts of my predecessors in this function, namely Ambassador Hoffmann of Germany, Ambassador Boytha of Hungary, Ambassador Chandra of India and Ambassador Brotodiningrat of Indonesia.

Under the able guidance of Ambassador Marín Bosch of Mexico, the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban worked intensively and produced a substantive report which contains an invaluable basis for the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. I am sure that the forthcoming inter-sessional negotiating period will bring about further progress along the road to the long-awaited goal of the cessation of all nuclear tests in all environments for all time.

Under the efficient chairmanship of Mrs. Bauta Solés of Cuba, the Ad Hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space carried out substantive work on legal and terminological issues and confidence-building measures. It also addressed the issues of the adequacy of the current legal regime governing outer space activities.

(The President)

The Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency in Armaments, under the leadership of Ambassador Boytha of Hungary, addressed a very broad spectrum of issues related to increasing openness and transparency in the field of armaments. Although agreement on those issues has not been reached, some progress was recognized in the understanding of the issues involved.

The Ad Hoc Committee on negative security assurances, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Guillaume of Belgium, succeeded in adopting a report in which all delegations reiterated that they attach particular importance to the question of international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and expressed their readiness to engage in a search for a mutually acceptable solution to the issue.

The Conference, yet again this year, continued the informal open-ended consultations conducted under the dynamic and elegant chairmanship of Ambassador Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan on the improved and effective functioning of the Conference. New measures were agreed upon to improve the functioning of the Conference, the foundations were laid for future improvements, and, in acknowledgement of the value of such consultations, it was also agreed that they should continue during our next session, without change in their format, or chairmanship. I am sure that delegations look forward to resuming the dialogue, which often went beyond the improved effectiveness of the Conference, and provided a forum in which valuable exchanges of views on other areas of concern could be aired and shared as a basis for future discussion.

Similarly, the open-ended consultations conducted under the able guidance of Ambassador Lars Norberg, Special Coordinator for the review of the agenda, proved to be a very valuable opportunity for delegations to discuss wide-ranging issues related not only to the Conference's immediate and future agenda, but also wider-ranging issues related to the role of the CD in a rapidly changing world. Despite divergent views on the need to make any immediate changes to the Conference's agenda, it was, nevertheless, recognized that the Conference's agenda should be kept under constant review in order to be able to respond to change both within and without. The Conference, therefore, decided that such consultations would continue during the next session and I am sure that we will all benefit from a continuation of the quality of discussion attained during this year.

On the issue of fissile material, the Special Coordinator, Ambassador Shannon of Canada, spared no effort to narrow differences and define areas of agreement which the Conference can build on in the future. There was consensus that the Conference was, indeed, the appropriate forum in which to negotiate a treaty on this issue and there was also agreement that an ad hoc committee on this issue should, in principle, be established as soon as a mandate had been agreed upon. It is our hope that remaining differences can be overcome and that the Conference can rise to assume its responsibilities in this regard.

We are all grateful to the Friend of the Chair on expansion of membership, Ambassador Lampreia of Brazil, for his untiring efforts to bring about a compromise solution to this long-standing problem. Regrettably, this

(The President)

did not prove to be possible during this year. The importance and urgency attached to the question of expansion of the membership of the Conference, which is duly recognized by its members, ought to be translated into positive action through appropriate solutions so that it would make the Conference more representative of the international community. It is my sincere hope that this issue can be resolved in the near future.

I should like to thank all delegations, coordinators of regional groups and China, for the cooperation and flexibility shown to me, as President, during the past few weeks. It has been an honour and I must say a pleasure to preside over this forum during such a challenging period. As my term of office will extend to the end of 1994, I wish to assure you that I shall continue to assume my responsibilities during the inter-sessional period and do everything possible to facilitate the task of the incoming President for the 1995 session.

Last, but not least, allow me to express my sincere thanks to the secretariat which, under the leadership of Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and also notably Mr. Abdelkader Bensmail, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, has rendered every valuable assistance to me during my presidency. I should also like to thank the secretaries of the ad hoc committees and the staff of the secretariat, as well as the interpreters and translators and all other, often invisible, members of a very efficient team who do so much to make our work run so smoothly.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 31 January 1995, at 10 a.m. in this room, in accordance with the agreement reached on the dates for its 1995 session. The last plenary meeting of this session is thus adjourned.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.